Operations

★*LEAD OPERATING COMMAND WEAPON SYSTEMS MANAGEMENT*

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The Air Force employs many diverse weapons and support systems in executing its global mission. Operating, maintaining, and modifying these systems to upgrade or extend economical service life greatly consumes the Air Force's budget. Ultimately, the Air Force must develop, purchase, and field new systems to replace systems economically obsolete or beyond economical repair. The Air Force assigns responsibility for overall management of each system to a "lead command" to ensure that all requirements associated with every system receive comprehensive and equitable consideration This lead command provides a primary input into the process of developing and maintaining a force structure with a balance of complementary capabilities, and it establishes a basis for rational allocation of scarce resources among competing requirements. The identity of the lead command is obvious when only one command has the system assigned to it. However, when active Air Force Major Commands (MAJCOM) "share" a system among themselves or with units of the Air Reserve Components (ARC), the Air Force clearly designates a lead command so that all using and supporting organizations know who is the overall advocate for that system over its life cycle.

SUMMARY OF REVISIONS

★This revision strengthens and clarifies lead and user command responsibilities throughout; lead command will author all necessary Air Force publications and forms for each designated mission design series (MDS) (paragraph 4.12); user commands will comply with published Air Force Instructions (AFIs) (paragraph 5.1); and user command supplements, when required, may not be less restrictive than the published AFIs (paragraph 5.2). Figure A2.1 (attachment 2) expanded to identify lead and user commands by MDS; identifies AETC as the lead command for C-12's; identifies ACC as the lead command for HC-130's and F-4's; identifies AFSOC as the lead command for AC-130's; and identifies USAFA as the lead command for T-41's. This policy directive has been revised throughout.

1. The Air Force will designate a lead command or agency when more than one Air Force MAJCOM or agency possesses the same type of weapon system. It designates all other MAJCOMs or agencies possessing that weapon system as "user" commands. If only one Air Force MAJCOM or agency possesses the weapon system, that MAJCOM or agency is the designated lead command.

2. Lead command for weapon systems operated by both active MAJCOMs and the ARC will prioritize requirements, resources, and schedules within a total force context. The Air Force normally will give priority to warfighting tasked forces which will enter the fight first, without command or component assignment being the predominant factor.

2.1. If actions by the Office of the Secretary of Defense (OSD) or the Congress approve items to improve capability of weapons systems, the Air Force will make every effort to take advantage of the opportunity. All people involved must support the Air Force's effort to maintain fleet-wide configuration control and commonality for interoperability within total force operations.

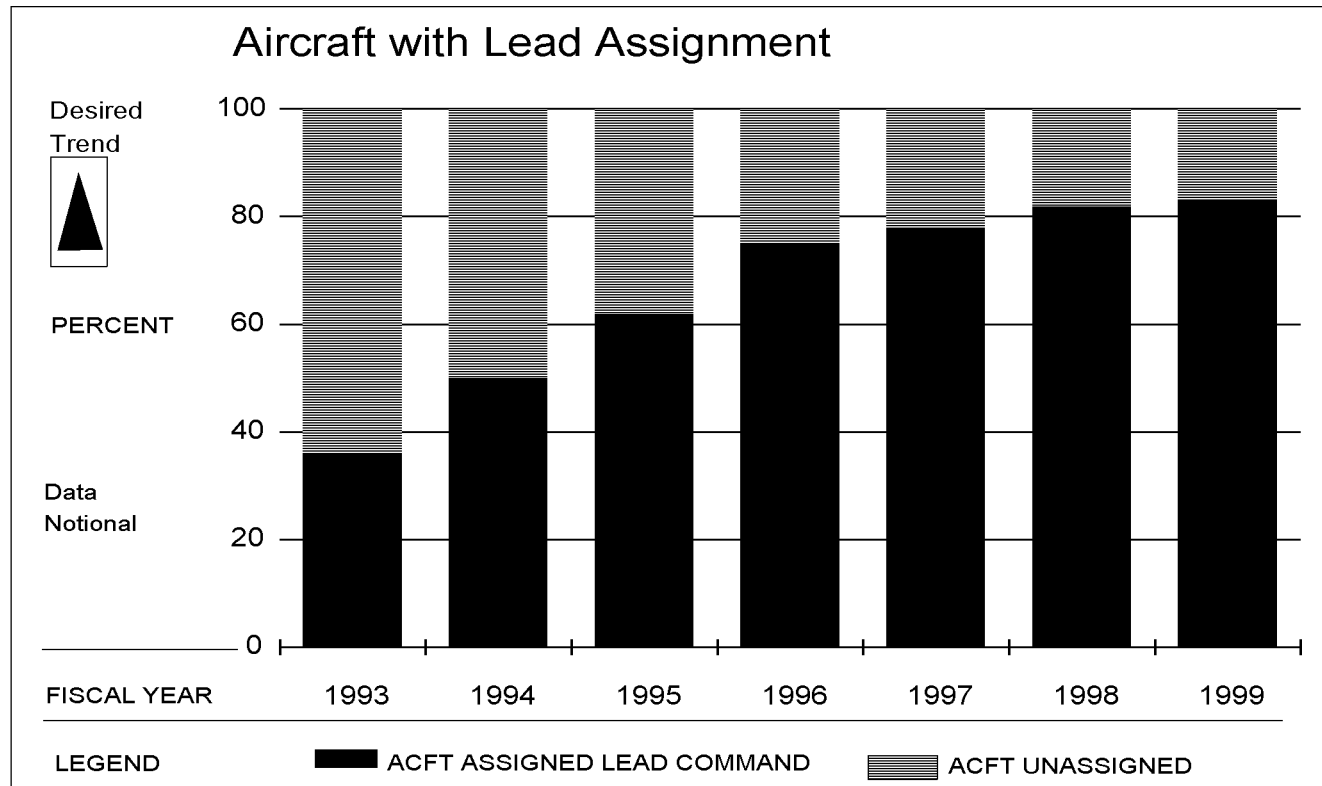Please Recycle   Printed on Recycled Paper

3. The Air Force will work needs which the user perceives as adding value to a system without bias in the Planning, Programming, and Budgeting System. Once the Air Force validates, prioritizes, and makes decisions on requirements regarding Resource Allocations, all participants will adhere to its priorities. If circumstances change or new information is available concerning a system, the user should bring the new data to the lead command which has the obligation to revisit the priority.

4. This directive establishes the following authorities and responsibilities which are applicable to both primary weapon systems, and support and training systems. The lead command will:

4.1. Advocate for the weapon system and respond to issues addressing weapon system status and use. Advocacy includes planning, programming, and budgeting for designated system-wide unique equipment, modifications, initial spares, replenishment spares, and follow-on test and evaluation.

4.2. Provide appropriate operational and support agency representation in the requirements and modification process.

4.3. Follow established directives when establishing and prioritizing modification requirements.

4.4. Identify Minimum Essential Subsystem List (MESL) items. If necessary, user commands can supplement with their own specific requirements.

4.5. Oversee weapon systems configuration following established MAJCOM and weapon system single manager procedures.

4.5.1. The weapon system single manager is responsible for maintaining system engineering integrity; the lead command is responsible for fleet-wide interoperability and commonality. Therefore, both the lead command and the single manager must first approve any implementation of permanent modification for which there was no previously validated need.

4.6. Establish standards, tasks, and formal training requirements for both operations and maintenance (for Air Force Special Operations Command, provisions of US Air Force or US Special Operations Command Memoranda of Agreement apply).

4.7. Manage munitions issues (SEEK EAGLE).

4.8. Establish minimum Readiness Spares Package standards (user commands can supplement with their own specific requirements, if necessary).

4.9. Manage Contractor Logistics Support contracts (user commands will program and budget for their portion of the contract costs).

4.10. Control disposition (ownership) and condition or storage status of excess weapon systems.

4.11. Identify weapon system funding requirements and in event of budget realignment, recommend funding sources when tasked by Headquarters United States Air Force.

4.12. Author MDS-specific AFIs, IAW AFPD 11-2, *Aircraft Rules and Procedures*, for each MDS they are designated lead command. HQ USAF/XO maintains approval authority for these AFIs and any subsequent changes or waiver requests.

5. User commands retain responsibility for accomplishing the above duties for command or mission unique equipment, modifications, and requirements.

5.1. User commands will comply with published AFIs for applicable weapon systems (reference AFPD 11-2). User commands may publish command supplements as needed to address mission unique requirements.

5.2. User command supplements, when required for unique mission considerations, may not be less restrictive than the published AFI.

6. The Air Force will continue to manage other fleet management items (Depot Level Repairable, Depot Purchased Equipment Maintenance, maintenance requirements document review, etc.) following existing and future command-to-command agreements.

7. Field operating agencies and others which are not able to perform full lead command duties may negotiate transfer of certain functions to MAJCOMs or agencies with more capability in those areas.

8. This policy directive provides overarching policy covering a wide range of activities impacted by the lead command concept. Cognizant agencies should develop implementation strategies and procedures tailored to their particular activity.

9. See attachment 1 for measures used to assess compliance with this policy.

10. See attachment 2 for lead command assignments.

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MEASURING AND DISPLAYING COMPLIANCE WITH POLICY

A1.1. HQ USAF/XOFP will measure compliance with Air Force lead command policy by comparing the percentage of types of aircraft weapon systems shared by more than one MAJCOM or agency with those having a lead command assignment. The desired trend is an increasing percentage of weapon systems assigned to a lead command or agency. HQ USAF/XOFP will track this data and report it on a semiannual basis, using the format in figure A1.1.

Figure A1.1. Sample Metric of Aircraft Managed by a Lead MAJCOM.

LEAD MAJCOM OR AGENCY ASSIGNMENTS

A2.1. Figure A2.1 represents in graphic form the lead command for each MDS. The designated commands should begin exercising lead command duties and responsibilities effective immediately. HQ USAF/XOFP is responsible for updating lead command assignments as required by events.

Figure A2.1. Lead MAJCOM or Agency Assignments.

ACC LEAD COMMAND FOR FOLLOWING MDS				
MDS	**User Commands**		**MDS**	**User Commands**
A-10	PACAF		C-130	PACAF
	USAFE		(GEN)	USAFE
	AFMC			AFRES
	AFRES			ANG
	ANG			
			★ HC-130	AFMC
OA-10	PACAF			AFRES
	USAFE			ANG
	AFRES			
	ANG		EC-130	ANG
B-1	AFMC		HH-60	PACAF
	ANG			AETC
				AFRES
B-52	AFMC			ANG
	AFRES			
			EC-135	AMC
E-3	PACAF			AFMC
F-15	PACAF		B-2	ACC Only
	USAFE		C-27	ACC Only
	AETC		E-4	ACC Only
	AFMC		E-8	ACC Only
	ANG		E-9	ACC Only
			EF-111	ACC Only
F-16	PACAF		★ F-4	ACC Only
	USAFE		F-22	ACC Only
	AETC		RC-135	ACC Only
	AFMC		TC-135	ACC Only
	ANG		OC-135	ACC Only
	AFRES		U-2	ACC Only
F-117	AFMC			
AFRES LEAD COMMAND FOR FOLLOWING MDS				
MDS	**User Commands**		**MDS**	**User Commands**
WC-130	AFRES Only			
AETC LEAD COMMAND FOR FOLLOWING MDS				
MDS	**User Commands**		**MDS**	**User Commands**
T/AT-38	ACC		★ C-12	AFMC
	AFMC			PACAF

Figure A2.1. Continued.

T/CT-43	ACC		T-37	AETC Only
	ANG		T-1	AETC Only
	USAFE		T-3	AETC Only
			JPATS	AETC Only
AMC LEAD COMMAND FOR FOLLOWING MDS				
MDS	User Commands			User Commands
C-17	AETC		C-21	ACC
	AFMC			AETC
				AFSPC
C-141	AETC			PACAF
	AFRES			USAFE
	ANG			ANG
				AFMC
C-5	AETC			
	AFRES		C/KC-135	USAFE
	ANG		(GEN)	PACAF
				ACC
C-9	PACAF			ANG
	USAFE			AFRES
				AETC
C-20	USAFE			AFMC
VC-25	AMC Only		KC-10	AMC Only
C-137	AMC Only			
AFSOC LEAD COMMAND FOR FOLLOWING MDS				
MDS	User Commands		MDS	User Commands
MH-60	AFMC		MH/TH-53	AETC
★ MC-130	AETC		EC-137	AFSOC Only
	AFRES		★ AC-130	AFSOC Only
AFSPC LEAD COMMAND FOR FOLLOWING MDS				
MDS	User Commands			
H-1	AFMC			
	AMC			
	AETC			
	PACAF			
USAFA LEAD COMMAND FOR FOLLOWING MDS				
MDS	User Commands		MDS	User Commands
TG-3,4,7,9,10,11	USAFA Only		UV-18	USAFA Only
★ T-41	USAFA Only			

Figure A2.1. Continued.

AFMC LEAD COMMAND FOR FOLLOWING MDS				
MDS	**User Commands**		**MDS**	**User Commands**
C-23	AFMC Only		**EC-18**	AFMC Only
NC-141	AFMC Only		**NKC-135**	AFMC Only
NC-130	AFMC Only		**T/NT-39**	AFMC Only
ANG LEAD COMMAND FOR FOLLOWING MDS				
MDS	**User Commands**		**MDS**	**User Commands**
C-22	ANG Only		**LC-130**	ANG Only
C-26	ANG Only			